COMMUNITY

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Amigos de SER
Recognition Luncheon

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

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March Madness at
LCA !!!

Los trabajadores inmigrantes como los del Puente Key cuidan nuestras comunidades

Las vidas perdidas en el colapso del puente nos recuerdan nuestra obligación de defenderlos a todos

Por Greisa Martínez Rosas y Gustavo Torres
Reimpreso de Baltimore Banner,
30 de marzo de 2024

BALTIMORE- Las autoridades han suspendido los esfuerzos de búsqueda y rescate de cuatro trabajadores de la construcción perdidos en el río Patapsco, después del colapso del puente Francis Scott Key. Otras dos personas fueron rescatadas de los escombros el miércoles y dos sobrevivieron a la catástrofe. Cada uno de estos hombres ayudó a hacer de la región de Baltimore una comunidad próspera, vibrante y segura. Eran residentes de la zona desde hacía mucho tiempo (padres, cónyuges, miembros de la comunidad e inmigrantes de El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y México) que derramaron su amor y cuidado para mejorar sus comunidades, pero recibieron poca atención a cambio.

Esta tragedia es un recordatorio de que los inmigrantes son parte de la columna vertebral del país y están entretejidos en la estructura de cada ciudad, estado y comunidad a la que llamamos hogar.

Continúa en la pág.4

Commentary: Immigrant workers like those on the Key Bridge take care of us

Lives lost in the bridge collapse provide a reminder of our obligation to protect everyone

By Greisa Martinez Rosas and Gustavo Torres
Reprinted from the Baltimore Banner, Mar 30, 2024

BALTIMORE- Authorities have suspended search-and-rescue efforts for four construction workers lost in the Patapsco River after the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Two others were pulled from the wreckage Wednesday, and two survived the catastrophe. Each of these men helped make the Baltimore region a thriving, vibrant and safer community. They were longtime residents of the area — fathers, spouses, community members and immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico — who poured out their love and care to better their communities but received little care in return.

This tragedy is an unwavering reminder that immigrants are part of the backbone of our country and are woven into the fabric of every city, state and community we call home. Baltimore is not Baltimore without them. That applies to any other U.S. community. Just as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to show us, immigrants are crucial to helping communities recover. Yet, far too often, the care that we immigrants selflessly give to make us collectively safer comes at the expense of our lives.

Cont. on pg.4

CASA essential workers honor lives lost-at Key Bridge tragedy. Photo credit CASA Baltimore affiliate

Meet with the Michigan Mexico Office: Three Stops Statewide

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MDEC) Mexico office representative, Silvia Alonso, will visit Michigan to meet directly with our business community June 3-7, with visits taking place in Troy (Automation Alley), Grand Rapids (Van Andel Global Trade Center) and Traverse City (Networks Northwest). These unique visits allow Michigan small businesses to meet one-on-one in-person with our Mexico specialist to support your company's entry and expansion into the Mexico market.

Silvia has successfully counseled Michigan small businesses to capture opportunities in Mexico for a variety of industries for more than 10 years. In February, Silvia supported a Michigan delegation of 12 companies participating in Automotive Meetings Queretaro. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to meet her in person and plan the next steps your company should take to grow your sales into Mexico.

Our next trade event in Mexico will be the Automation Alley Mexico Trade Mission, Oct. 13-18, 2024. Automation Alley will be hosting two events statewide for companies interested in joining the mission: 1) Doing Business in Mexico, June 4 in Troy, and 2) West Side Happy Hour, June 5 in Grand Rapids. To register, visit https://www.automationalley.com/event/doing-business-in-mexico-2024

Please contact your International Trade Manager (ITM) if you are interested in setting up a meeting with Silvia. For more information, visit https://www.michiganbusiness.org/ MEDC's Mexico office representative, Silvia Alonso, will visit Michigan to meet directly with our business community June 3-7, with visits taking place in Troy (Automation Alley), Grand Rapids (Van Andel Global Trade Center) and Traverse City (Networks Northwest). These unique visits allow Michigan small businesses to meet one-on-one in-person with our Mexico specialist to support your company's entry and expansion into the Mexico market.

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Please contact your International Trade Manager (ITM) if you are interested in setting up a meeting with Silvia.

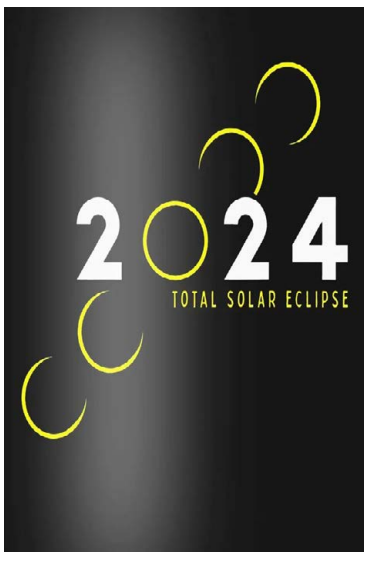
The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business development, job awareness and community development with the focus on growing Michigan's economy. For more information on the MEDC and our initiatives, visit www.MichiganBusiness.org. For Pure Michigan® tourism information, your trip begins at www.michigan.org. Join the conversation on: Facebook Instagram LinkedIn, and Twitter.

Silvia Alonso, MEDC's Mexico office representative

Solar Eclipse Safety Tips for Monday, April 8:

- Wear eye protection that meets the international standard ISO 12312-2 to safely view the eclipse.
- Avoid using standard sunglasses, glasses, polarized lenses, camera lenses, binoculars, and unfiltered telescopes for eclipse viewing.
- Supervise children closely when using solar eclipse viewers.
- Be aware that improper viewing of the eclipse may cause damage to the retina, leading to temporary or permanent vision loss.
- If you experience any vision changes following the eclipse, schedule a visit with your optometrist or ophthalmologist promptly.

Source: HAP and Henry Ford OptimEyes



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New Things Coming To Comerica Park This Season !!!

Story and photos by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL

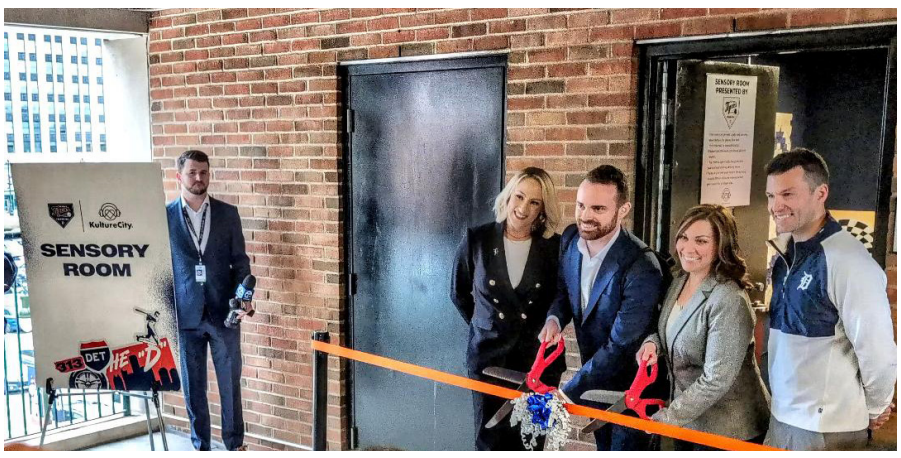
This Friday, April 5th, 2024 is the Home Opener of the Detroit Tigers, who will host the Oakland Athletics. The season has already started in Chicago vs the White Sox, this past week. Recently, Ryan Gustafson, President of Ilitch Sports and Entertainment gave a preview of what is new for spectators who will be attending games for the 2024 season.

FACILITIES: The new scoreboard at 15,000 square feet will be the largest in the American League and the second largest in the Majors. It dwarfs the original scoreboard and is a significant improvement over the previous season's scoreboard. The towering digital display is still topped by the two majestic Tigers but that is about all that is the same. Fans will be able to see replays in great detail and information will be available at a glance.

A new "sensory room" was unveiled for spectators with special needs. The concourse video screens have all been replaced with new ones that will ensure that if you have to wait in line for food or drink you will not miss a minute of the action on the field.

SPEAKING OF FOOD: El Ray de las Arepas will be offering chicken or beef arepas with cheese and garlic sauce. Slows Bar BQ, Marrow, Green Dot Stables, and Voyager will be offering new and interesting dishes for the fans. The ballpark prime concessionaire, Delaware North, will have new offerings including "smashburgers".

Photos below are highlights from the new things coming to Comerica Park



(on left) Ribbon cutting ceremony on the new KultureCity Sensory Room located on the Upper Level at Comerica Park.

(on left) New merchandise to be sold at Comerica Park during the season, including special giveaway days

"Peel and eat Shrimp", new coming to Comerica Park this season, by Voyager

New scoreboard, debuting on Opening Day. This will be the largest scoreboard in the MLB American League

"Smash Burger", new coming to Comerica Park this season, by the ballpark prime concessionaire, Delaware North

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SER YOUTHBUILD LEARNING ACADEMY, A MICHIGAN PUBLIC CHARTER ACADEMY, IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADES 9TH THROUGH 12TH FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR. APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED APRIL 22ND – MAY 3RD.
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Immigrant workers like those on the Key Bridge take care of us

Con't from pg. 1

In the early-morning hours before the bridge was struck by a cargo ship, these six men were busy repairing masonry and potholes, ensuring the roads we cross every day were tended to for their neighbors.

In the days after the bridge collapse, divers found two of the men trapped inside a pickup truck in 25 feet of water, Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. Roland L. Butler Jr. said at a news conference. They were identified as Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, from Veracruz in Mexico, and Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, who was from San Luis in Guatemala.

Two other workers have been identified: Miguel Luna, a father of three, and Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, a father of two.

These men were part of the Baltimore-area community, had raised families here, gave themselves to the city every day and belonged here.

The Key Bridge collapse was a terrible accident, and terrible accidents happen far too often to workers. But in a country where immigrant lives are consistently devalued, it serves as an important reminder of how much immigrants put their lives on the line for all of us. Our hearts are shattered knowing that these men should have made it back home that night to see their loved ones, to hug their children and to embrace their spouses. Instead, this tragedy is a somber reminder of the work we all must do to ensure our communities are safe and caring for everyone who calls this place home.

Across industries, especially in construction fields, immigrant communities face higher rates of fatality due to dangerous working conditions and insufficient or nonexistent safety measures. Exploitative working conditions, from construction to farm working, have heedlessly treated Black and brown immigrant lives as expendable.

Well beyond Baltimore, the deaths of these six men point to the essential role immigrants play in powering our country and the structural inequities and lack of political will to protect them at a national level. Nationwide, millions continue to be denied access to critical and permanent protections, including access to health care, affordable housing and a pathway to citizenship. This lack of legislative intention to include immigrants in all forms of protection has recklessly put countless of our lives at risk and left gaping wounds among families and entire communities left holding the grief of their loved ones whose tragic deaths were painfully preventable.

At a state level, legislative attacks against immigrants are on the rise. From Texas to Georgia to Arizona and more, the places we all call home are facing a moment when our immigrant neighbors are continuously vilified and scapegoated for malicious political incentives. This demonization turns into real policies, such as Texas' deportation legislation that would allow state police to racially profile and target Black and brown Texans they suspect are undocumented.

No one is made safer by these laws, and we all deserve better than the anti-immigrant actors who are trying to divide us by building walls and investing billions of dollars to target, detain and deport the very community members who are caring for our shared spaces.

Immigrants like the men on the Francis Scott Key Bridge ensure we can move freely throughout the communities we call home and keep us connected to our neighbors and families.

Now is the time to be unapologetic in demanding our elected officials on all levels lead with the humanity required

to ensure every member of our community is cared for and protected, regardless of their immigration status. President Joe Biden must take action to grant relief to all immigrants in our communities.

This is our collective obligation and an urgent, necessary way for us to honor the legacies and lives of the Francis Scott Key Bridge workers. Let's move forward together to defend immigrant lives.

Greisa Martinez Rosas, who received assistance under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, is executive director of United We Dream. Gustavo Torres is executive director of CASA.

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With over 155,000 lifetime members across 46 US states, CASA is a national powerhouse organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy in order to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. www.wearecasa.org

Los trabajadores inmigrantes como los del Puente Key cuidan nuestras comunidades

Con't de pg. 1

Baltimore no es Baltimore sin ellos y se aplica a cualquier comunidad estadounidense. Tal como nos sigue demostrando la pandemia de COVID-19, los inmigrantes son cruciales para ayudar a las comunidades a recuperarse. Sin embargo, con demasiada frecuencia, la atención que los inmigrantes ofrecemos desinteresadamente para brindar mayor seguridad colectiva, se produce a expensas de nuestras vidas.

En la madrugada, antes del impacto del puente por parte de un carguero, seis hombres trabajaban en mampostería y baches, asegurándose de que las carreteras estuvieran en buenas condiciones para sus vecinos.

En los días posteriores al colapso, los buzos encontraron a dos de los hombres, atrapados dentro de un pickup a 25 pies bajo el agua; comentó en una conferencia de prensa, el superintendente de la policía estatal de Maryland, coronel Roland L. Butler Jr. Fueron identificados como Alejandro Hernández Fuentes, de Veracruz, México, y Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, de San Luis en Guatemala.

Otros dos trabajadores han sido identificados: Miguel Luna, padre de tres hijos, y Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, padre de dos.

Estos hombres eran parte de la comunidad de Baltimore, habían formado familias aquí, se entregaban a la ciudad todos los días y pertenecían aquí.

El colapso del puente Key fue un accidente terrible, y los trabajadores los sufren con demasiada frecuencia. Pero en un país donde las vidas de los inmigrantes se devalúan constantemente, sirve como recordatorio de cómo los inmigrantes arriesgan sus vidas por nosotros. Nuestros corazones están destrozados al saber que estos hombres deberían haber regresado a casa esa noche para ver a sus seres queridos, abrazar a sus hijos y a sus esposas. Más bien, esta tragedia es un sombrío recordatorio del trabajo que todos debemos hacer para garantizar que nuestras comunidades estén seguras y protejan a todos los que llaman hogar a este país.

En todas las áreas, especialmente en la construcción, las comunidades inmigrantes enfrentan tasas más altas de mortalidad, debido a condiciones laborales peligrosas y medidas de seguridad insuficientes o inexistentes. Con las condiciones laborales de explotación, desde la construcción hasta el trabajo agrícola; las vidas de los inmigrantes negros y morenos han sido consideradas como prescindibles.

Mucho más allá de Baltimore, la muerte de estos seis hombres señala el papel esencial que desempeñan los inmigrantes en el poder de nuestro país y las desigualdades estructurales y la falta de voluntad política para protegerlos a nivel nacional. En todo el país, a millones de personas se les sigue negando el acceso a protecciones críticas y permanentes, incluido el acceso a la atención médica, a una vivienda asequible y a un camino hacia la ciudadanía. Esta falta de intención legislativa para incluir a los inmigrantes en todas las formas de protección ha puesto imprudentemente en riesgo innumerables vidas y ha dejado heridas abiertas entre familias y comunidades enteras que cargan con el dolor de sus seres queridos, cuyas trágicas muertes fueron dolorosamente prevenibles.

A nivel estatal, los ataques legislativos contra los inmigrantes van en aumento. Desde Texas hasta Georgia y Arizona, el lugar al que todos llamamos hogar se enfrenta a un momento en el que nuestros vecinos inmigrantes, son continuamente vilipendiados y convertidos en chivos expiatorios por incentivos políticos maliciosos. Esta demonización se transforma en políticas reales, como la legislación de deportación de Texas, que permitiría a la policía estatal perfilar racialmente y atacar a los tejanos negros y morenos que se sospeche que son indocumentados.

Estas leyes no hacen que nadie esté seguro, y todos merecemos algo mejor que los actores antiinmigrantes que están tratando de dividirnos, construyendo muros e invirtiendo miles de millones de dólares para atacar, detener y deportar a los mismos miembros de la comunidad que cuidan protegen nuestros espacios comunes.

Los inmigrantes como los hombres en el puente Francis Scott Key garantizan que podamos movernos libremente nuestras comunidades y nos mantienen conectados con nuestros vecinos y familias.

Ahora es el momento de no pedir disculpas y exigir que nuestros funcionarios electos en todos los niveles, lideren con la humanidad necesaria para garantizar que cada miembro de nuestra comunidad sea cuidado y protegido, independientemente de su estatus migratorio. El presidente Joe Biden debe tomar medidas para otorgar alivio a todos los inmigrantes en nuestra comunidad.

Esta es nuestra obligación colectiva y una forma urgente y necesaria de honrar el legado y las vidas de los trabajadores del puente Francis Scott Key. Avancemos juntos para defender las vidas de los inmigrantes.

Greisa Martínez Rosas estuvo bajo el programa Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia DACA, es directora ejecutiva de United We Dream. Gustavo Torres es director ejecutivo de CASA.

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Con más de 155,000 miembros vitalicios en 46 estados de EE. UU., CASA es una poderosa organización nacional que construye poder y mejora la calidad de vida de la clase obrera: comunidades negras, latinas, afrodescendientes, indígenas e inmigrantes. CASA crea cambios con su modelo de creación de poder que combina servicios humanos, organización comunitaria y promoción para atender todo el espectro de necesidades, sueños y aspiraciones de los miembros. www.wearecasa.org

Traducción por Carmen Elena Luna

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1 oldest, largest and only bi-lingual Hispanic news. Multi-year winner of Jose Marti National Award for excellence in Editorial and Design. Published in Metro Detroit since 1988. Minority (Hispanic) and woman owned

El Central informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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Autism Acceptance Month promotes a more inclusive Michigan

Resources are available to support people with autism and their family members

To foster acceptance and encourage Michiganders to work together to build a more inclusive state that supports opportunities for all, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer joins the Michigan Departments of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), Education (MDE), Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Autism Alliance of Michigan to proclaim April as Autism Acceptance Month.

"Michigan is a welcoming state where everyone must be able to reach their full potential," said Gov. Whitmer. "During Autism Acceptance Month, we encourage all Michiganders to learn more about autism, recognize the different strengths individuals with autism have to offer, and support our family, friends, and neighbors with autism. Let's keep working together to make record, bipartisan investments in our students so they can build brighter futures in Michigan."

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S. About 1 in 36 children have been identified with ASD according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network.

"We are dedicated to providing Michiganders with autism and their families and caregivers with the support they need to live productive and rewarding lives," said LEO Director Susan Corbin. "Supporting people with autism helps us deliver on our mission to close equity gaps, remove barriers, and help people on their pathway to economic prosperity."

LEO, MDE, MDHHS, Autism Alliance of Michigan and many other community providers across the state have resources for individuals with autism, ranging from identification and diagnosis, to support, training and intervention. While treatments and education for children are critical towards improving outcomes for this population, eventually, individualized and customized support, comprehensive training and better advocacy and outreach strategies are needed to obtain, maintain and advance employment opportunities.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 21% of people with disabilities, including those with autism, are employed. At the same time, nearly 60% of people with autism are employed after receiving vocational rehabilitation services.

"Individuals with autism have incredible strengths and talents that often go untapped – our workforce is strengthened by their contributions," said Stephanie Beckhorn, director of LEO's Office of Employment and Training. "We are committed to supporting employment opportunities for all Michiganders, including those with autism. Our vocational rehabilitation programs, including the nationally recognized Michigan Career and Technical Institute in Plainwell, assist individuals with autism in identifying their personal and professional goals and providing them with the right supports and services to help them achieve success."

LEO offers a number of vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with autism through Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Through its statewide network, Michigan Rehabilitation Services develops creative, customized solutions to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and obtain competitive employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Michigan Career and Technical Institute, the second-largest rehabilitation training center in the country, offers 12 technical training programs, each designed to support the integration of Michiganders with disabilities into both the competitive workplace and society. Information about the programs can be found at Michigan.gov/MCTI.

"Inclusive education welcomes all students and supports learning across all environments in the school setting," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. "MDE is committed to supporting inclusive education for students with autism and is proud to partner with the Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) project, LEO, MDHHS and the Autism Alliance of Michigan to move schools and communities beyond inclusion and to a place where people with autism are welcome and appreciated."

Housed in the Grand Valley State University Autism Education Center, START is a MDE grant-funded initiative. START works with families, schools and community partners to support children, students and young adults with autism in being active and engaged in their schools and communities and transitioning into adulthood, where they have opportunities for independent living, meaningful work and post-secondary education in adulthood. START provides professional learning and evidence-based resources to schools throughout the state that support students with autism.

Among the many services MDHHS provides to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries diagnosed with ASD are applied behavioral

analysis; community living supports; family support and training; financial intermediary; enhanced pharmacy; environmental modifications; housing assistance; skill building; specialized medical equipment and supplies; supported/integrated employment; respite care and vehicle modifications.

"Autism Acceptance Month is a great opportunity to show support for those affected by autism spectrum disorder, as well as their families and caregivers," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "Over the past 10 years, MDHHS has continued to work toward expanding access to care and supporting better treatment standards and outcomes for families affected by autism in our state. In 2023, MDHHS supported autism spectrum disorder evaluations for 27,449 children and provided Adaptive Behavior Treatment to 8,545 children. MDHHS remains committed to expanding services and addressing barriers to care for children and youth with autism spectrum disorder."

Symptoms and characteristics of autism can vary significantly from one individual to the next and may result in significant, lifelong challenges in areas of learning, social-interactive behaviors and understanding verbal as well as nonverbal communication. Acceptance and inclusion are key to an individual's independence in their community. Many individuals with autism possess and learn exceptional skills and talents valuable to the business community.

"We applaud Governor Whitmer in proclaiming April as Autism Acceptance Month," said Colleen Allen, CEO of the Autism Alliance of Michigan. "While we have made great progress as a state in securing critical services and support for people with autism, there is still a long way to go. Continuing to raise awareness, acceptance, inclusion and justice for people with autism and other disabilities is critical to making Michigan a top 10 state for care access, equitable education, employment opportunities, and ultimately, independence."

Discover the mission and resources of Autism Alliance of Michigan by visiting AutismAllianceOfMichigan.org. You can also learn more about how MDE and MDHHS support individuals with autism by visiting MDE's Special Education website or Michigan.gov/Autism.

Board of Police Commissioners Report to the Community

By: Steve Walker

The 1973 Detroit City Charter (the basic legal document for city government) created a Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC). This was one of the first in the United States. The purpose was to establish civilian oversight of the police and to bring the police and the community closer together. The BOPC currently consists of 11 members, one elected from each City Council District and four selected by the Mayor.

The member representing District 6 in Southwest Detroit is Lisa Carter. In addition, Mayor Mike Duggan has appointed Jesus Hernandez as an at-large representative. Today, EL CENTRAL brings you a recent interview with Commissioner Lisa Carter and in a coming issue, hopes to bring you an interview with the lone Latino member of the BOPC, senor Hernandez. Hopefully, these interviews will serve as a police report to the Latino community.

Lisa Carter is an important member of the BOPC. She has served on the Commission for 10 years, and during that time, she has served as Chair twice and several times as Vice Chair. She serves currently as the Chair of the Commission's Budget Committee and as a member of the Personnel and Training Committee.

Lisa Carter has a background in law enforcement. She was a member of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department for 27 years, and she retired as a lieutenant in charge of the training unit. She currently serves as a Program Director for the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program located at Wayne State University. She is married to State Representative Tyrone Carter (Democrat-Southwest Detroit).

Ms. Carter told EL CENTRAL that she tries to be sensitive to the needs of the Latino Community. She said that "she wants the Latino community to feel included in the Detroit Police Department." She encourages the Department to hire and promote Latinos. Spanish language materials are used extensively throughout the Commission itself and the Department. Complaints about the Police can be made in Spanish, and the Department does not cooperate with ICE.

Now that Commander John Serda has retired, the highest-ranking Latinos in the Department are three lieutenants, one man and two women. Generally, a lieutenant commands a shift in a precinct. In addition, the BOPC has its own small staff that included two Latino investigators. Both of these investigators have now retired and Ms. Carter is hoping some Latinos will apply for these jobs.

Lisa Carter told EL CENTRAL that major efforts have been made to remove any barriers to applying for jobs in the Police Department and any applicant fees have been removed, as well. Interested parties can explore the possibilities by calling the DPD Recruitment Office at 313-596-8890 or emailing them at dpdfieldrecruitment@detroitmi.gov. The Police Department is currently hiring and Mayor Duggan has raised the wage rates in recent years.

NOTE: Any person can get involved with the Detroit Police Department. Each precinct has a Police Community Relations Committee. The Committee in our 4th Precinct meets the second Tuesday of every month (except during the summer) at the 4th Precinct Headquarters located at 4700 W. Fort St. This Committee is currently chaired by Erminia "Mini" Ramirez.

The BOPC meets every week. Meetings are held at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 3rd St. at Michigan Avenue, each Thursday at 3:00 pm except the second Thursday, when the community meetings are held at 6:30 pm. The weekly agenda and community meeting locations can be found at https://detroitmi.gov/government/boards/board-police-commissioners.

Commissioner Lisa Carter, District 6

Steve Walker has been active in politics since 1962. He is a retired Political Science professor from Wayne County Community College, a member of the state Democratic Hispanic Latino Caucus and a long-time treasurer of the Wayne County Spanish Speaking Democrats and contributing writer for EL CENTRAL.

Special World's Cultures

The Parrandas Of Taguayabon

The Parrandas of Taguayabón, Camajuaní, Cuba

Camajuaní, "Clear, crystalline waters", is a Cuban municipality located in the province of Villa Clara, in the central east of the Island of Cuba. The coat of arms of the municipality bears the motto: "Labor Prima Virtus", which means "Work is the first virtue", and was designed in 1880 by the painter and journalist José de la Cruz Vidal Caro.

Camajuaní is known for its carnival-type festivities called: Las Parrandas, which are celebrated in several towns in the municipality. In 2018 Las Parrandas were registered as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The first time that Las Parrandas were celebrated in the municipality of Remedios in 1820, it was so important that the festival spread to the surrounding towns.

Among the towns of Camajuaní that celebrate Las Parrandas, is Taguayabón, "Place where butterflies abound," a rural town of less than five thousand inhabitants. Although the first recorded settlements were in the 17th century, it was not until 1704 when it was known as a type of hacienda: "Corral de Taguayabón".

Las Parrandas have been held in Taguayabón year after year since 1908, however, the dates of the celebration have changed over the decades. It is important to mention that there is a competition or confrontation between the "Gallo" and "Gavilán" neighborhoods, so that a certain level of secrecy and privacy is managed, since, if the opponents know about the other project, they can modify their interests to performance and thereby affect the winner's result.

Each neighborhood has a brotherhood through which they organize themselves to prepare their floats. Likewise, they have a place where the members of each neighborhood meet for the performance.

In principle, the members must decide the theme, in order to design not only the cars with their respective props, lights, colors, scenery, but also the development of the costumes, as well as the changuíes, mambos, cha-chachás, rumbas, casino, as well as, fireworks.

Carrying out Las Parrandas not only requires immeasurable organization, but also exceptional teamwork. Creativity and originality play a crucial role that can be seen in the complex dance routines and choreographies, as well as in the elaborate and colorful costumes.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Las Parrandas de Taguayabón

Las Parrandas de Taguayabón, Camajuaní, Cuba

Camajuaní, "Aguas claras, cristalinas", es una municipalidad cubana ubicada en la provincia de Villa Clara, al centro oriente de la Isla de Cuba. El escudo de la municipalidad lleva el lema: "Labor Prima Virtus", que significa "El trabajo es la primera virtud", y fue diseñado en 1880 por el pintor y periodista José de la Cruz Vidal Caro.

Camajuaní es conocida por sus festividades de tipo carnaval llamadas: Las Parrandas, las cuales se celebran en varias poblaciones de la municipalidad. En 2018 Las Parrandas quedaron inscritas como parte del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de la Humanidad. La primera vez que Las Parrandas se celebraron en el municipio de Remedios en 1820,

teniendo tal importancia que se difundió la festividad a las poblaciones aledañas.

Entre las poblaciones de Camajuaní que celebra Las Parrandas, se encuentra Taguayabón, "Lugar donde abundan las mariposas", una población rural de menos de cinco mil habitantes. Si bien, los primeros asentamientos de los que se tiene registro fueron en el siglo XVII, no fue sino hasta el 1704 cuando se le conoció como un tipo de hacienda: "Corral de Taguayabón".

En Taguayabón se han llevado a cabo Las Parrandas año con año desde 1908, sin embargo, las fechas de la celebración han ido cambiando al paso de las décadas. Es importante mencionar que se hace una competencia o enfrentamiento entre los barrios el "Gallo" y el "Gavilán", de manera que se maneja un algo nivel de secretismo y privacidad, pues, si los contrincantes saben del otro proyecto puede modificar sus intereses para la realización y afectar con ello el resultado del ganador.

Cada Barrio cuenta con una hermandad a través de la que se organizan para la preparación de sus carros alegóricos. Asimismo, tienen un lugar en el que se reúnen los miembros de cada barrio para la realización.

En principio, los miembros deben decidir la temática, para con ello diseñar no sólo los carros con su respectiva utilería, luces, colores, escenografía, sino también el desarrollo de los vestuarios, así como los changuíes, mambos, chachachás, rumbas, casino, así como, fuegos artificiales.

La realización de Las Parrandas no sólo requiere inconmensurable organización, sino también un trabajo en equipo excepcional.

La creatividad y original tienen un papel crucial que se deja ver en las complejas rutinas y coreografías de baile, así como en los elaborados y coloridos vestuarios. Como vemos en las imágenes, ha habido ocasiones en que la temática fue bajo el mar, o bien, siglo XV en Francia, así como criaturas fantásticas.

No se puede considerar a Las Parrandas como un tipo de carnaval, pese a tener grandes similitudes, pues la diferencia más importante es que en Las Parrandas cubanas se lleva a cabo el encuentro de dos barrios, que, en el caso de los carnavales, son tantos equipos participantes como sea posible.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

SER Metro-Detroit Celebrates its 52nd Anniversary Amigos de SER Business Recognition Luncheon

SER Metro-Detroit celebrated its 52nd Anniversary at its Annual Amigos de SER Business Recognition Luncheon held at the MGM Grand on March 25, 2024. Its keynote speaker was Mr. Matt Buckley, President and COO of the Midwest Group, MGM Resorts International.

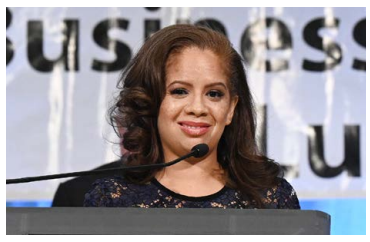
The Luncheon included an awards ceremony recognizing the many partners, funders, and employers who invest in the Detroit community through SER's work. This year's "**Amigo of the Year Award"** was presented to **MGM Grand Detroit** for their ongoing partnership and support of SER Metro's programs for over 20 years. **LM Manufacturing** received the "**Employer of the Year Award"** for hiring more than 600 SER graduates and program participants during the past year.

The "**Journey to Success**" awards were presented to program graduates **Arturo Lopez, Brianna Sadler, Edgad N. Urbina,** and **Sarah Williamson.** Two additional graduates, **Daisy Ovelle** and **Amarr Scott**, will each receive $1,000 in honor of the "**Frank D. Stella Scholarship Program**".

A check for $500,000 was presented to SER Metro for their Youth Reengagement Center by the Michigan State Legislature, led by Senator Mary Cavanagh and supported by Senators Stephanie Chang, Darrin Camillari, and Representative Veronica Paiz who were in attendance. More than 550 guests attended the event which had been rescheduled from last fall due to the MGM workers' strike.

y of the Annual

Photos by Jose Juarez



Editor's Note: SER Metro-Detroit President and CEO Eva Garza Dewaelsche is also the Owner and Publisher of EL CENTRAL Hispanic News.

March Madness at Little Caesars Arena !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos and story by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL

The Boilermakers of Purdue slipped past the Tennessee Vols to earn their spot in the Final Four to be held in Glendale, Arizona on Saturday, April 6, 2024. The game was a clash of heavyweights with Zach Eady of Purdue scoring 40 points in a 72 – 66 win over Tennessee. Tennessee's Dalton Knecht put in a 37-point game to keep the Vols in contention down to the last minutes of the game.

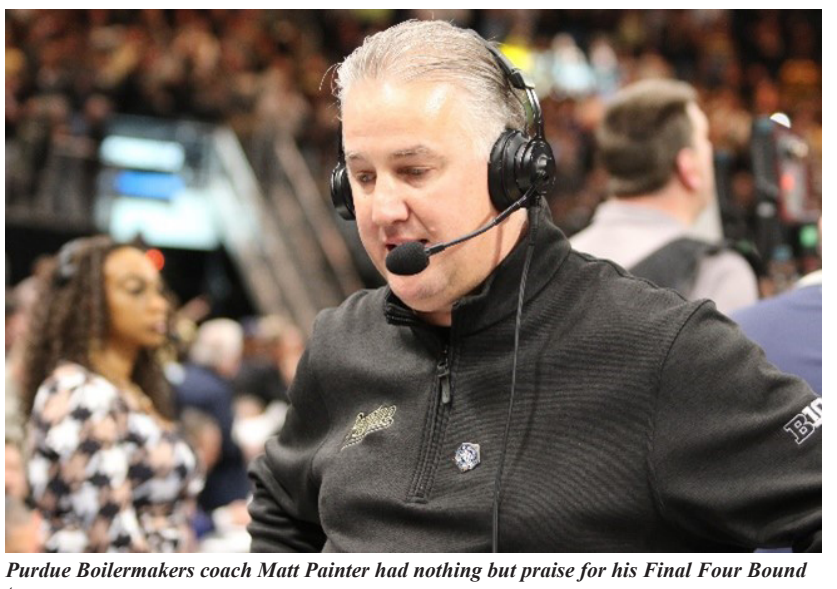
Photos below are highlights from Purdue Boilermakers and Tennessee Vols

Detroit won with fans from both teams and Little Caesars Arena glowed with the epic game. Praise for the City and the venue were heard throughout the house.

Purdue Boilermakers, Zach Eady, and Tennessee Vols, Dalton Knecht, the top scorers checking each other. Eady had 40 points, 16 rebounds and 1 assist. Knecht had 37 points, 3 rebounds and 1 assist

Zach Eady at 7'4" was able to cut down his part of the NET without using the ladder

Fans celebrating at the end of the game



Purdue Boilermakers coach Matt Painter had nothing but praise for his Final Four Bound team

Le Rouge Rolls On

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

Pateando la No. 5

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Detroit City fans, so starved for goals over the past two seasons, will be spoiled soon if the club keeps up their current form. Coming off the 2023 season when even one goal in a game was a luxury, DCFC has now scored two goals in each of their first three league matches of 2024. Indy XI felt the sting of the offensive juggernaut last weekend. After three straight games without a win against their nearest geographic opponent, Detroit City claimed a third straight 2-1 win to start the season.

New boss Danny Dichio has brought some new life into the attack. He also brought in some new personnel and reconfigured how the team attacks. Still, they conceded the first goal and had to come back in a rousing second half. That first goal came from a superb one-on-on move by Younes Boudadi. He completely spun Brett Levis around on the City left side and drove into the penalty area. With the defense unbalanced, Boudadi picked out an unmarked Sebastien Guenzatti. Geunzatti had no trouble finding the corner of Nate Steinwascher's net.

Last year, trailing by a goal would have led to a near certain defeat. This year, things have changed. The team rallied around Steinwascher who made a stunning save, diving at full stretch to his right to stop a header from Adrian Diz just seconds into the second half. The City netminder stood tall when Augustine Williams broke in on the right shortly after that. Finally, inspired, Le Rouge started to take the game to their hosts.

Ali Coote equalized after fifty-five minutes after neat exchange built around Maxi Rodriguez's quick feet at the top of the penalty area. Coote's left-footed shot went across the goalkeeper and into the side netting. James Murphy and Rhys Williams had chances to give City the lead not long after the equalizer, but both shots were blocked before getting through.

The two teams tightened their defenses as the clock ticked towards full time. With a set piece being the most likely route to victory, DCFC lined up a free kick in the eighty-eighth minute. Murphy floated the ball to the far post, hoping for a knock down to create chaos in the penalty area. He got his and the club's wish when substitute Yazeed Mathews rose highest to send the ball back across the front of goal where Maxi Rodriguez applied the finishing touch.

DCFC's third win from three games moved them level with Louisville City on points, but trailing on goal difference at the top of the Eastern Conference. The club now has momentum and belief after opening a USL Championship season with three wins for the first time. This weekend, the expansion North Carolina FC will make their first trip ever to Keyworth Stadium. The kick-off had to be moved to 2pm to accommodate the first ever national broadcast of a USL Championship game on network television. CBS Detroit 62 will have the DCFC game followed by the national broadcast of Louisville City against Indy XI at 4pm.

Panthers Win Home Opener 18-16 !!!

This past Saturday, the Michigan Panthers had their home opener at Ford Field, hosting the St. Louis Battlehawks.

The Panthers trailed the Battlehawks 3-0 at halftime, and bounced back to defeat the Battlehawks with time running out, with a 64 yard field goal by Jake Bates.

The Michigan Panthers host the Birmingham Stallions on Sunday, April 7th, at 12:00 pm (ESPN), then host the Houston Roughnecks on Sunday, April 14th, at 12:00 pm (ABC).

The Michigan Panthers go on the road Saturday, April 20th, to take on the San Antonio Brahmas at 7:00 pm (FOX).

Photos below are highlights from the Panthers vs. Battlehawks game

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

Jake Bates (38) kicks a last second field goal for 64 yards, setting a UFL record and giving the Panthers an 18-16 victory over the Battlehawks

Devin Ross (12) dives into the endzone for a successful two point conversion giving the Panthers a 15-9 lead late in the fourth quarter

E.J. Perry (4) scrambles up the middle for a touchdown, giving the Panthers a 13-9 lead

Wide receiver Marcus Simms (9) makes a move after catching an E.J. Perry pass, tackle made by corner-back Tim Harris (4)

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Congress! Cut Catholic and Jewish Immigrants. Now!"

By Raoul Lowery Contreras

Construction crews of the railroad from 1860's California east to Utah that would stitch the U.S. of A. into one massive country, sea-to- shiny-sea, enjoyed mild California days and nights until freezing came with winter.

The colder a day was, the smaller the workforce. Sometimes, too few workers meant no work was done.

Librarians directed me to American history. It was in one of their books I read how railroad workers in California's Sierra Nevada calculated the minute when Spring began after a killer winter.

During freezing cold days, some construction workers tossed cans of frozen normally liquid nitroglycerin to others without thinking about it, it saved steps and frozen "nitro" was safe. Only as liquid was it dangerous; it could explode by accident. American workers never threw cans of the frozen explosive around. American workers didn't like it anyway, they preferred dynamite.

Blasting was the only method of cutting/tunneling through the high and solid Sierra Nevada mountains.

Winter slowed construction because workers quit rather than suffer. A solution was needed. China!

As California Governor Leland Stanford, co-founder of the Central Pacific Railroad company, said when questioned if he was serious about bringing Chinese workers to build the railroad, "They built the Great Wall of China, they could easily lay railroad tracks," or words to that effect.

Stuffed into ocean-going ships, 13,000-15,000 Chinese came. Winter didn't bother them. Zero temperatures that froze nitroglycerin made work easier. "White Anglo" supervisors would watch and appreciate a long line of Chinese tossing frozen cans of nitro - man to man - up the side of a mountain because that saved time and time was money.

Winter in the Sierra Nevada always ends. How did people know? A day would come without a blizzard, without clouds, with a clear beautiful day disturbed only by a huge explosion. Everyone, including the Chinese, knew what that meant - one can of nitro, one too many was tossed from one Chinese worker to another on a day when the nitro started to thaw.

Meet the thousands of Chinese immigrants brought to the U.S. to work because native Americans refused to do the work that was considered too dangerous on bitterly cold, icy California mountains.

Most of the railroad construction workers from the east were Irish Americans, hired off of boats in New York or Baltimore. Their flatland jobs weren't as difficult as the Sierra Nevada job. Americans wanted more money than the Irish who walked off of boats. Thus, an Irish workforce.

Once Stanford's railroad was finished, more railroads were started but there weren't enough construction workers. Mexicans were recruited. A map of United States railroads with overlapping lines on where Mexicans live and one can see who filled the railroad construction employment gap.

In 1979 I stood outside San Diego City Hall with the mayor watching Mexican American construction workers laying track for the San Diego Light Rail system. Little had changed in a hundred years. The 1880 Census of San Diego counted 1500 "Americans," 3,000 Mexicans and 5,000 Chinese. Mexicans worked on farms and the new railroad, the Chinese worked on the railroad and on farms. The Southern Pacific Railroad connected San Diego with the rest of America.

Mexican farmworkers have dominated the western U.S agricultural workforce for over a hundred and fifty years.

Congress, including U.S. Senator Leland Stanford (R-CA), basically ended immigration from China in 1882. Mexicans were untouched until 1924 when the all-white (one Black) Congress imposed visa requirements on Mexicans. It cut off immigration from Mediterranean and Eastern European countries. By design Congress limited Roman Catholic and Jewish immigration by imposing tiny quotas.

The quotas were based on the number of people from the affected countries that were in the U.S. in 1890 when almost all previous immigrants were from Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany and Ireland.

It was extreme ethnic discrimination. Those quotas lasted until the end of WWII in 1945 and in the 1950s and Sixties.

What didn't change, however, was immigrant desire to work at jobs Americans refused. Half of our farm workers today are working illegally in the U.S. These 400,000 mostly Mexican men feed us.

Then, there is the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore.

Six dead or missing: Dorlian Cabrera, 26, Guatemala; Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 25, Mexico; Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, 38, Honduras; Jose Mynor Lopez, 35, Guatemala; Miguel Luna, El Salvador; the sixth man, unidentified from Mexico.

"One of the reasons Latinos were involved in this accident is because Latinos do the work that others do not want to do…" says Lucia Islas, president of Comité Latino de Baltimore, a nonprofit group.

This statement is as true today as it was when made about Chinese, Irish, Italians, Polish, Russians and Mexicans in the 1800s.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

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Misa: Dom 9am

St. Gabriel's
313-841-0753
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Misa: Dom 9:30am, 12:00pm, 7:00pm
Lunes: 6:00pm
Martes: 6:00pm
Miércoles: 9:00am

St. Francis D'Assisi - St. Hedwigs Parish
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3245 Junction
Detroit, Mi 48209
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Miércoles: 7:00pm
Jueves: 7:00pm

Ste. Annes Parish
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Misa: Dom 10am

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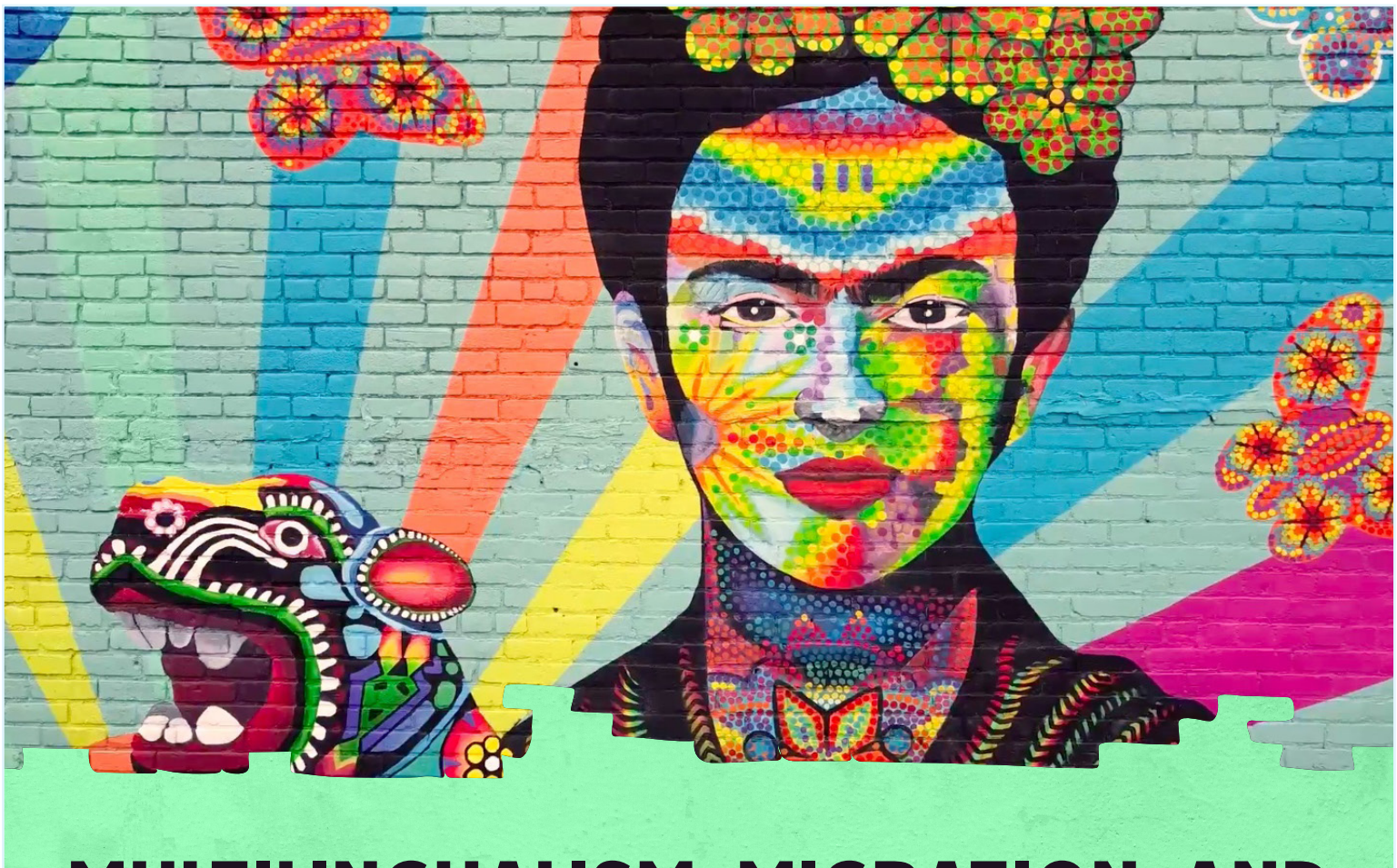

MULTILINGUALISM, MIGRATION, AND MURALISM IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT

APRIL 19TH, 2024
4:15PM-5:45PM

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM
90 STUDENT CENTER BUILDING, 5221 GULLEN MALL. DETROIT, MI 48202

MODERATOR:
- **Emmanuel Orozco Castellanos** *Collaborator, translatingmichigan.org*

PANELISTS:
- **Elton Monroy Duran.** *Conceptual Artist and Kresge Arts Fellow*
- **Alicia Diaz.** *WSU Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies Faculty*
- **Elena Herrada.** *Community Activist and Oral Historian*
- **Louis Aguilar.** *Author and Reporter*

From the *Detroit industry Murals* to the recent proliferation of street art, Muralism remains central to the Latinx collective imaginary in the Motor City. As part of *Translating Michigan*, a public humanities project curated by University of Michigan faculty, this panel will explore how murals have and can empower people to resist erasure and envision Latinx utopias grounded in plurality.

The event will feature a special performance inspired by real interactions between Frida Kahlo and Detroit's Mexican community, followed by a catered reception highlighting the local cuisine.

This event is free and open to the public.
Please register in advance in the link below, or scan the QR code to register:
https://rsvp.wayne.edu/adp-2024/

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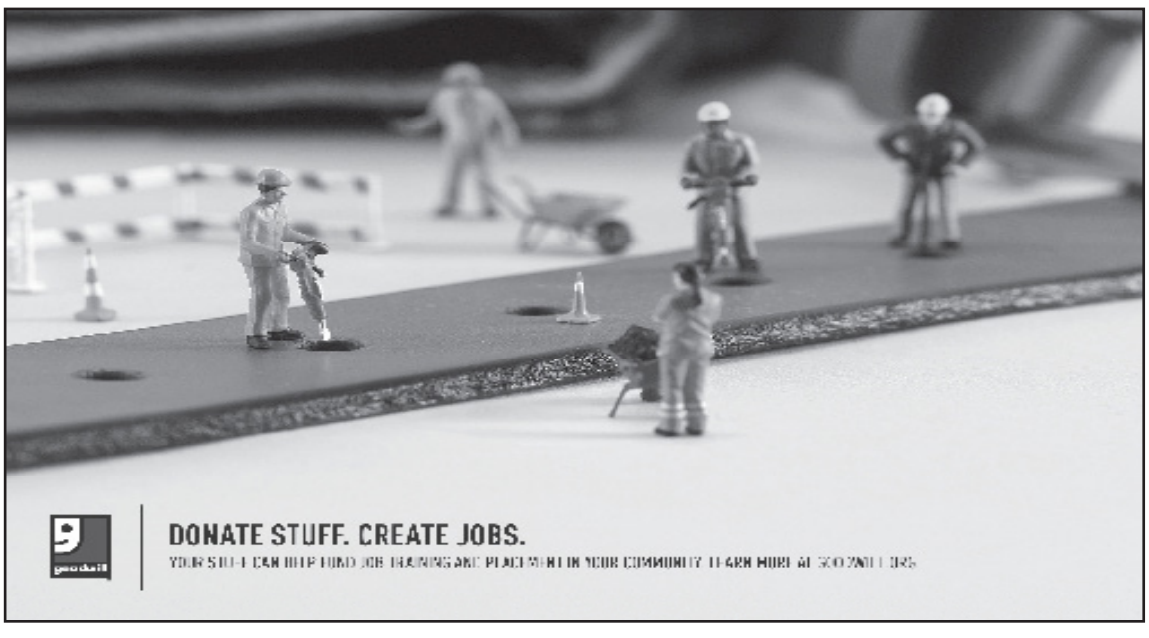

Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit

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Southwest Detroit Community:
Our Next Chapter Together

After more than a decade of serving Southwest Detroit, the Ford Resource and Engagement Center (FREC) is transitioning to expand our reach in the community.

We're grateful for the wonderful memories we've shared at the Mexicantown Mercado and appreciate the support of all our friends and neighbors over the years.

**As of March 15, 2024, FREC Southwest operations and services will no longer be offered at the Mexicantown Mercado location:
2826 Bagley St. Detroit, MI 48216.**

Don't worry - we're not moving far!
Our services will still be available throughout Southwest.

For more information and updates during this transition, please visit **fordfund.org/frecsouthwest.**

Additional resources can be accessed by **calling 2-1-1** or visiting **pantrynet.org** to find a nearby food pantry.

We're grateful for the wonderful memories we've shared at the Mexicantown Mercado and appreciate the support of our community over the years.

Communidad de Southwest Detroit:
Juntos en Nuestro Proximo Capitulo

Despues de más de una década prestándole servicios a Southwest Detroit, Ford Resource and Engagement Center (FREC) esta en vías de transición para expandir nuestro alcance en la comunidad.

Estamos agradecidos por las maravillosas memorias que hemos compartido en el Mexicantown Mercado y apreciamos el apoyo de todos nuestros amigos y vecinos a través de los años.

A partir de Marzo 15, 2024, FREC Southwest no continuara ofertando sus operaciones y servicios en el Mexicantown Mercado localidad: 2826 Bagley St. Detroit, MI 48216.

No se preocupen – no nos mudamos lejos!
Nuestros servicios seguirán disponibles en todo el Southwest.

Para mas información y actualizaciónes durante esta etapa de transición, por favor visite a **fordfund.org/frecsouthwest.**

Informaciones adicionales pueden ser obtenidas **llamando a 2-1-1** o visitando **pantrynet.org** para encontrar un food pantry mas cercano.

Estamos agradecidos por los maravillosos recuerdos que hemos compartidoen el Mercado de Mexicantown y apreciamos el apoyo de nuestra comunidad todos estos años.

Public Safety & Belonging Listening Sessions
Join us to share your feelings on park Safety and Belonging at 1 of 4 listening sessions!
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(Samaritan Center)
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April 17th . . . . . Clark Park
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MSHDA Opens $60 Million 'MI Neighborhood' Applications

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) recently opened the MI Neighborhood application, which consolidates nine targeted programs and funding to address the regional goals identified through the implementation of the Statewide Housing Plan.

MI Neighborhood is open to developers, nonprofits, and units of local government, and applications will be accepted as long as funding is available. Up to $60 million will be awarded in the current fiscal year, with the next round of funding beginning October 1, the start of the state's new fiscal year. Regional investment targets, based on the 15 regional housing partnerships identified in the Statewide Housing Plan, have been developed using an equitable, transparent, data driven strategy.

"MI Neighborhood represents our annual commitment to acknowledging the hard work of our regional housing partnerships and meeting the priorities they've identified in their regional action plans," said Amy Hovey, Executive Director and CEO of MSHDA. "It's also a commitment to bringing forward solutions that eliminate unnecessary burdens and red tape."

Grants awarded through MI Neighborhood will be supported by state and federal funding. It is intended to be a low-barrier, common application that will be accessible to experienced and emerging community developers, nonprofits, and municipal leaders alike.

"MI Neighborhood is a one-stop shop for developers, nonprofits, and units of government to ask us for help in funding improvements for local neighborhoods through new units, rehabilitation, and public amenities," continued Hovey. "We'll continue to move quickly with these kinds of locally-focused solutions."

"We need to build more new homes, rehabilitate more of our older homes, and make targeted investments in improving our neighborhoods – that's exactly what MI Neighborhood is going to help us do," said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. "I'm grateful for strong leadership at MSHDA that's helping transform the way our state government works with local partners. Together we're going to solve the housing crisis. Let's get it done."

Projects will be prioritized that are most aligned with the regional action plans, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received.

"This new application will be a simple and straightforward way for us to access MSHDA funds to help build and rehabilitate more homes in mid-Michigan," said Emma Henry, Executive Director of the Capital Area Housing Partnership. "It's bigger than bricks and mortar – by working together, we are going to build stronger communities all over this region for years to come."

Developers, nonprofit organizations and local units of government can access the application on the MI Neighborhood page on the MSHDA website at www.michigan.gov/mshda.

***About MSHDA** The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), established in 1966, provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve safe and decent affordable housing, engage in community economic development activities, develop vibrant cities, towns and villages, and address homeless issues.*

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